

have seen a lot of the mainstream media try to claim that these price increases are due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, not the Biden administration's anti-energy agenda. If that were true, how has the gas price per gallon increased by \$1.60 over the last year, not just the last two weeks of the Ukraine conflict.

Since taking office, the Biden administration has frozen all new oil and gas projects on Federal lands and implemented extreme financial barriers on domestic oil and gas production. On day one, of course, we all know he killed the Keystone pipeline, which could be supplying 830,000 barrels of oil from Canada to U.S. refineries, more than what Russia imports to us.

In his first week, we had an executive order stopping new leases on Federal lands, so we need to replace Russian energy with our own production.

STANDING AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, and stand against anti-Semitism and other forms of religious bigotry.

On January 15 of this year, Congregation Beth Israel, in our North Texas area, endured a preplanned terrorist attack with the explicit purpose of targeting Jews.

This attack was personal to me, because I know the rabbi of that congregation, Charlie Cytron-Walker, and his wife, Adena, very well. I met them when they first moved to the North Texas area.

That is why I am here today, because no community should have to endure that type of attack while they are trying to worship. It doesn't matter what religion they happen to be. It has absolutely no place in our houses of worship.

Tomorrow, in the House, we will vote on a bipartisan resolution that my fellow colleague from North Texas, BETH VAN DUYNE, and I are leading. This resolution condemns the actions taken in Colleyville in January and underscores our commitment to fighting anti-Semitism. I ask everybody to support it, because we must root out hate.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTHCARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order and to be joined by my co-anchor, the distinguished gentleman from New

York, Congressman TORRES. I thank him so very much for his presence here today.

Let me acknowledge the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus as well and thank her for helping to organize this Special Order as well as to be able to discuss health equity and the Black family and the reasons why the CBC strongly urges and supports substantial investments for healthcare in the budget for fiscal year 2023. I also want to especially acknowledge my friend and colleague, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE, whose office initiative has always focused us on the enormity of health disparities in the African-American community.

Let me start with a few comments to be made regarding the work of the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me acknowledge and express my appreciation to the President of the United States for hosting the members of the Congressional Black Caucus this afternoon who serve on the executive committee and for the concern and interest that the President has expressed on a number of issues that I think are important to where we are today in America.

Let me borrow this picture from Congresswoman KAPTUR, who heads the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, and just remind everyone, because the Congressional Black Caucus has been at the forefront of persons fleeing persecution.

□ 1945

We have been a leader. Whether it is Haiti or whether it is places in Africa or the Caribbean or Europe, African Americans have been at the forefront.

This happens to be the mass of people that are trying to escape Ukraine because of the bloody and immoral and purposeless and vicious and vile actions of Vladimir Putin.

We stand here today as well, recognizing the humanitarian crisis and recognizing as well that we, as Americans, are going to be supporting any people who are fighting for democracy. As we fight for those people, we will also recognize that we will ensure that we are protecting democracy and the freedom of all people.

With that in mind, we had a number of issues that we discussed, and I think it is important that healthcare was certainly a part of it. And the disparities, disparities dealing with African-American boys and African-American men and recognize that we need to focus on eliminating those stark disparities that would result in less of a future for these young boys, for their lives turning around even before they enter school, that there is an intervention to ensure that they become the best of what they can be. That is a crucial element of what we talked about as well.

I am very grateful that we were also in discussions on H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act; and, of course, the very positive discus-

sion that we had, breaking news is that progress will be made on the idea of healing and repairing and reparations, and we are certainly grateful for that discussion.

I would also like to mention as I begin, in the immediacy of the news of the day, we are well aware of my constituent that is now being held in Russia, that is Brittney Griner, an Olympian, a double-honors WNBA player. Unfortunately, we don't have the proof of the allegations. We are disturbed, but we know that she has the possibility of being held for 10 years because of the alleged charges that they are making against her. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to bring this to the attention of the President of the United States, and we expect that hopefully this situation will be looked at as closely as possible and that help will be coming.

I mention this because our Chairwoman has always said, Our Power, Our Message. We speak of a multitude of messages that we will have tonight, focused in particular on the issue of healthcare.

As a member of the United States Congress and the Congressional Black Caucus, we can't start this without talking about the COVID-19 pandemic that has laid bare for the Nation to see the stark racial and ethnic inequalities exacerbated by the virus.

In my home State of Texas as of the end of September 2020, there had been more than 760,000 cases of COVID-19 and 16,000 deaths. According to the Texas State Department of State healthcare services, 70 percent of the confirmed fatalities are people of color.

In Texas, COVID-19 mortality rates are 30 percent higher for African Americans and 80 percent higher for Hispanics. One factor in the Hispanic and African-American populations being more likely to contract COVID-19 is employment in occupations associated with public contact that cannot be done remotely.

We saw that in the early stages of COVID-19, when testing was not at its peak, that the numbers were so high in New York, New Orleans, Detroit, and, yes, in Houston, Texas, because African Americans, in particular, were in jobs that they had hands on, that they were encountering people, whether they were metro bus drivers or TSA workers in the Federal system, whether they were retailers in the grocery store, whether they were firefighters and first responders or police officers, we were finding out that they were being confronted by these particular issues.

The idea of health disparities in the African-American community lends itself to the very reason why this Special Order is crucial. Health coverage as it relates to African Americans in 2017:

10.6 percent of African Americans were uninsured compared with 5.9 percent of non-Hispanic Whites;

89.4 percent of African Americans had healthcare coverage in 2017 compared with 93 percent of White Americans;